

Message Text

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TAGS:EEC,PFOR
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS COMMENTS ON EC ENLARGEMENT
ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION,AND THE COMMISSION'S
POLITICAL ROLE

1.IN A " FIRST THREE MONTHS IN OFFICE" INTERVIEW PUBLISHED
IN THE " EUROPA" SUPPLEMENT TO LE MONDE,LA STAMPA,LONDON
TIMES,AND DIE WELT APRIL 7, EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS
TOOK ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING EC ENLARGEMENT,THE EC
COMMISSIONS POLITICAL ROLE,AND THE FUTURE OF ECONOMIC
AND MONETARY UNION.

2.ASKED TO CLARIFY WHAT HE MEANT BY URGING A BALANCE
BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN RESPONDING
TO EC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS,JENKINS COMMENTED THAT THESE
CONSIDERATIONS ARE " TO SOME EXTENT CONFLICTING BUT AT THE
SAME TIME RECONCILABLE." WITH REGARD TO PORTUGAL,THE EC
"MUST RETURN A CLEARLY POSITIVE POLITICAL ANSWER TO DR.
SOARES... IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING FOR THE COMMUNITY
IF IT WERE NOT ABLE TO GIVE POLITICAL SUSTENANCE
TO A NEW DEMOCRACY WHICH WANTS THE SUPPORT OF BEING
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ABLE TO SEE ITSELF PART OF THE COMMUNITY... THAT IS
THE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION." SECONDARY,BUT
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT,IS THE FACT THAT PORTUGUESE ENTRY
IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD PLACE " VERY SERIOUS ECONOMIC
STRAINS,POSSIBLY CRIPPLING ECONOMIC STRAINS,ON
PORTUGAL." JENKINS CONTINUED: " IT IS VERY DESIRABLE
THAT THIS SHOULD BE FACED CLEARLY AT THIS STAGE AND

NOT BRUSHED UNDER THE CARPET AND LEFT TO BE DEALT WITH
LATER."

3.ASKED WHAT HE MEANT WHEN HE SPOKE OF THE "PRIMACY"
OF THE COMMISSON'S POLITICAL ROLE,JENKINS RESPONDED
THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH PARTY POLITICS--
" WE CERTAINLY DON'T RUN THE COMMISSION ON THAT BASIS..
AND I HOPE WE WILL NOT HAVE ANY DIVISIONS ON PURELY
PARTY POLITICAL LINES." THE PREEMINENCE OF THE COMMISSION'S
"POLITICAL" ROLE MEANS THAT WHEN THE COMMISSION MAKES A DECISION,
IT CANNOT TAKE SHELTER BEHIND THE
"RULES," BUT MUST HAVE FULL REGARD FOR THE POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES" OF WHAT IT DOES.THE COMMISSION'S
POLITICAL ROLE ALSO INVOLVES THE NECESSITY OF A
CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
AND THE IMPERATIVE OF REACTING -- NOT ON A NATIONAL
BASIS BUT ON A EUROPEAN BASIS -- TO PUBLIC OPINION.

4.ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION,JENKINS ASSERTED
THAT THIS REMAINS A "VERY LIVELY OBJECTIVE, AND NOT
SOMETHING I WANT TO THROW OUT THE WINDOW," FOR
"IN THE LONG RUN,YOU CANNOT MAKE A SUCCESS OF EUROPE
WITH MOWING TOWARD ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION."
ASKED WHAT THE COMMISSION CAN USE ITS INFLUENCE
TO TRY TO SECURE CONVERGENCE OF POLICIES AND TO ENCOURAGE
COMMON DISCIPLINE.HE TOOK HEART FROM THE " RATHER
SIGNIFICANT" AGREEMENT BETWEEN GISCARD AND SCHMIDT TO
INTRODUCE NEW PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC CONVERGENCE AT
THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING AT YEAR'S END, "WHEN THE
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FRENCH ECONOMY THINKS IT MAY BE ABLE TO DEAL ON AN
ALMOST EQUAL FOOTING AGAIN WITH THE GERMANS."
"UNTIL YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF FRANCO- GERMAN BALANCE
IN THE MIDDLE OF EUROPE, " JENKINS DECLARED, " IT IS
VERY DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT ECONOMIC AND MONETARY
UNION." " BUT WITH THE FRENCH BACK IN BUSINESS, YOU ARE
IN A RATHER DIFFERENT POSITION." JENKINS ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT THERE REMAINED THE PROBLEM OF BRITAIN AND ITALY,
BUT FELT THAT EVEN IN THOSE COUNTRIES THERE ARE SIGNS
OF GREATER EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY.
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